

# Eco-Community Dialogues Newsletter

Nancy Nelson, Editor

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## The Conservation Pledge

*I pledge to protect and preserve the natural resources of the planet Earth, and promise to promote education so we may become caretakers of our air, water, land, forest, and wildlife.*

## Lest We Forget

When you go to the polls on November 4, remember that *Henry Kissinger* said that food is weaponry and whoever controls the food controls the people. Hadn't you rather thank all the *Right to Know YES ON MEASURE 92* campaign partners.

## The Pompeo Bill

The POMPEO BILL would allow food *Prepared by Genetic Engineering* to be labeled or marketed as “*Natural*” or “*All-Natural*”. The house bill would make it voluntary to label GMOs and it would take away the right of states to pass mandatory GMO labeling laws. The bill is anti-consumers and pro-Monsanto and their allies.

(Source: October 29, 2014, ORGANIC CONSUMERS ASSOCIATION, “*All out for November 4: Frankenfoods Fight at the Crossroads*”, by Ronnie Cummins; [www.organicconsumers.org/articles/article\\_31314.cf](http://www.organicconsumers.org/articles/article_31314.cf) )

## Alexis Baden-Mayer's Arrest

**Alexis Baden-Mayer, the Director of the ORGANIC CONSUMERS ASSOCIATION was arrested for protesting changes to organic standards, at the *National Organic Standards Board* meeting.**

It seems that COSCO, TARGET, and WALMART sales of organic food have lobbying power with *USDA Certified Organic* standards.

Robinson & Cole LLP is who defends THE GROCERY MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION manufacturers and distributors. He coauthors the [www.ManufacturingLawBlog.com](http://www.ManufacturingLawBlog.com).

(Source: September 2014, DELICIOUS LIVING, “*What's In A Name? What Common Labels Mean—And Why They Matter*” by Jenna Blumenfeld and Elisa Bosley)

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Robert Green Ingersoll

*"I would like to see all the editors of papers and magazines agree to print the truth and nothing but the truth, to avoid all slander and misrepresentation, and to let the private affairs of the people alone."*

(Source: THE ARENA, *Boston*, Massachusetts, 1897)

Monsanto Horseshit

*Monsanto* and their allies are spending a record breaking \$20.8 million dollars in out-of-state Big Money to protect their profits with their usual public scare tactics. Their strategy is to influence U.S.A. citizens' votes. In a nutshell they want to sell you human food *Produced by Genetic Engineering*, but *without* your informed consent. If the labeling law passes they can only sell it to you *with* your informed consent.

If Not Here, Then Where

Since *Monsanto* and their allies fight so hard to defeat GMO labeling in the United States of America (USA), wouldn't you like to see an **International Court** establish GMO food labeling for *all* nations on earth so that food weaponry could be disbanded and the GMO seeds could rot in perfect peace.

The Non-GMO Project

According to the *Non-GMO Verified Project*, food that has been cross-contaminated by *Genetically Modified Organisms* (GMOs) includes alfalfa, canola, corn, cotton, papaya, soy, sugar beets, yellow summer squash, and zucchini. There have also been known instances of GMO contamination of beets, flax, rice, and wheat. The verification project also believes dairy, eggs, bee products, and meat are at high risk. Many more foods are in the pipeline to be *Produced by Genetic Engineering*.

Let's Create A Kinder Future Together

Did you know there was a recent **Worldwide Conference** in *Shanghai*, CHINA, with *Chinese* and *Russian* scientists among others talking about the drawbacks of GMO crops. The Asian nations rejected *Monsanto* GMO wheat grown in OREGON two years ago. CHINA has refused *Syngenta* GMO corn this entire year.

In addition to that the BIOSAFETY ALLIANCE's "*Justice Begins with Seeds*" **International Conference** in *Portland*, OREGON was just held and *Andrew Kimbrell*, the founder of the *Center for Food Safety* was the keynote speaker.

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Ronnie Cummings with the Organic Consumers Association, Dr. Ray Seidler, and Jeffrey Smith were some of the 40 international conference presenters in Portland, OREGON. Mr. Smith produced the documentary film *Genetic Roulette* You can listen to Jeffrey Smith's talk at <http://www.responsibletechnology.org/gmochina?key=30123263>.

(Sources: THE BIOSAFETY ALLIANCE; <http://www.biosafetyalliance.org>; [miguel@biosafetyalliance.org](mailto:miguel@biosafetyalliance.org); THE CENTER FOR FOOD SAFETY, 660 Pennsylvania Ave SE, Suite 302, Washington DC 20003; [akimbrell@centerforfoodsafety.org](mailto:akimbrell@centerforfoodsafety.org); [Ronnie@organicconsumers.org](mailto:Ronnie@organicconsumers.org); [rayseidler@msn.com](mailto:rayseidler@msn.com))

### The National Research Council

The government of the *United States of America* (U.S.A.) called its **first GMO public meeting to sponsor a study of GMO crops** because major trading nations disapprove of GMOs. No kidding! Maybe the U.S.A. is starting to get the hint that *agricultural experts* have raised a number of GMO crop safety concerns.

**The National Research Council (NRC) has been chosen to lead the research to examine the “Benefits” along with “Concerns” of GMO crop technologies in order to inform the public discourse by 2016.**

A crop genetics expert from NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY has warned that GMO crops harm USA farmers. Widespread use of *Roundup's glyphosate* has become ineffective now that GMO crops have evolved Superbugs and Superweeds that are choking crop yields and spreading.

The committee members working on the NRC's research include scientists in crop health, ecology, and genetics from universities in WISCONSIN, NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY, and MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY, among *others*.

The study also includes the INTERNATIONAL FOOD POLICY RESEARCH INSTITUTE, the NATURE CONSERVANCY, and *other* groups. Wouldn't you like to know who the *others* and *other* groups are and who is funding the research results besides the *United States Department of Agriculture* (U.S.D.A.)

(Sources: September 15, 2014, Yahoo News, Reuters, “*GMO safety, weed control top concerns as U.S. study kicks off*” by Carey Gillian and Andrew Hay; and [www.responsibletechnology.org/china](http://www.responsibletechnology.org/china))

### GMO Oversight Concerns

In the late 1990's PRODIGENE INC. of *College Station*, TEXAS, was set up to grow pharmaceutical plants.

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In 2002 PRODIGENE'S pharmaceutical corn plants from a field test a year earlier in NEBRASKA were sprouting in a field of soybeans. It cost the *Agriculture Department* \$3.5 million to destroy the 500,000 bushels of adulterated soybeans. PRODIGENE paid the government back in two years interest-free.

In 2002 PRODIGENE's pharmaceutical corn test site in IOWA adulterated 155 acres of non-GMO corn. The contaminated corn was found to be growing illegally and it had to be burned. PRODIGENE was fined \$250,000.

In 2004, PRODIGENE'S corn test site in NEBRASKA was sprouting in a nearby sorghum field, and an inspector found that oats growing alongside had been baled for animal feed.

In 2005 the Inspector General of the *Agriculture Department* identified weaknesses in inspections and enforcement, such as basically being unaware of the secret locations of GMO field trials.

In 2007 PRODIGENE received a \$3,500 fine and the *Agriculture Department* forced the company out of business because of its GMO contaminations. PRODIGENE agreed that neither it NOR ITS SUCCESSORS in interest would ever again apply to the *Agriculture Department* for permission to introduce GMOs into the environment.

In 2008 the *Government Accountability Office* (GAO) urged stronger monitoring of GMO field trials, and for government agencies to work together in determining unintended consequences to the environment, to conventional farming, and to food safety after GMO products hit the market.

In 2013 more than 150 farm groups and businesses, many in the organic trade, asked the *Agriculture Department* to strengthen oversight of GMO field trials.

In May 2014 the *Applied Biotechnology Institute* in CALIFORNIA was granted a confined release of GMO corn designed to produce 22 pharmaceutical and industrial molecules, and to keep some of them confidential. The permits are for a variety of GMOs, including those developed by PRODIGENE. The former Chief Scientific Officer of PRODIGENE INC. started up the *Applied Biotechnology Institute*.

Lawyer *Greg Jaffe* with the Center for Science in the Public Interest, contends the 2007 agreement has been technically violated since *Applied Biotechnology Institute* is selling PRODIGENE's main product, and PRODIGENE personnel are doing the same thing under a new name.

For example, pharmaceutical corn being grown by the *Applied Biotechnology Institute* for the purpose of experimental vaccine for the Pharmaceuticals Industry. The corn carries **Hepatitis B protein derived from the Hepatitis B virus** and the secret location is among Central Coast vineyards, near a *San Luis Obispo County* stream, in CALIFORNIA. GMO pollen may drift into the steelhead trout stream. The biotech disclaimer is that that their corn doesn't threaten surrounding plant life.

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But Agriculture Department inspectors have already found two infraction incidents, but the company that planted the pharmaceutical corn has not been issued a formal notice of non-compliance nor a fine.

(Source: September 6, 2014, SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE, “*Modified Crops Stir Oversight Concerns*” by Bill Lambrecht, investigative reporter for HEARST NEWSPAPERS)

### What Is A Weed

A weed is defined as a plant growing in a place in which it is *not* wanted. Most plants classified as weeds are **persistent** and hard to keep out of a garden, lawn, or field. *Some of the most persistent weeds of our time were planted intentionally.*

Plants that spread aggressively outside of their range, outcompeting native plants, are called **invasive** weeds. They are difficult to manage because they overcome desirable species.

Plants that are harmful to animals, humans, or water are referred to as **noxious** weeds, because when native plants are displaced, the ecology of the area changes, impacting wildlife, soil quality, water availability, and the fire regime.

**Invasive and noxious weeds threaten ecosystems by competing for the moisture, nutrients, and soil space. Once they escape cultivation they are very expensive to control.**

**GMO plants are all of the above. Because GMO’s are unwanted, persistent, noxious, and invasive they fit the definition of “*What is a Weed*” as stated in the JACKSON SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT’S *Urban Living Handbook*, page 29.**

**Maybe you haven’t thought of the obvious yet, but classifying GMOs as weeds would aid in the protection of native plants, shrubs, and trees. It would also aid in the conservation and protection of birds, pollinators, and other natural resources.**

**You may not have noticed that the OREGON DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE’s *Plant Division* could therefore classify GMO plants as weeds on their website at [www.oregon.gov/ODA/PLANT/WEEDS/lists.shtml](http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/PLANT/WEEDS/lists.shtml).**

A plant simply needs its *own* genes, directed by the plant itself, working for the plant, not for patent rights. Sooner or later researchers may admit that genes are hampered in their tasks by *Genetically Modified Organisms* (GMOs).

The use of herbicides should be the last resort, as it is only a short-term solution. Consider contacting the *Native Plant Society of Oregon* at [www.npsoregon.org/](http://www.npsoregon.org/) and teamed up with your neighbors before GMOs go to pollen in your area. Prevention is the most effective and least costly form of weed control and organic methods are available.

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(Source: JACKSON SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT's *Urban Living Handbook, A Resource for Jackson County Living and Stewardship*, "Weed Management" heading)

### To Enhance Your Personal Study

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